

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 2-4 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 2-4 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC sA103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitcomb in view of William and Page and Robertson.

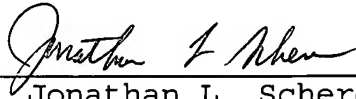
Applicant would like to thank Examiner Luong for the consideration given applicant's attorney at the interview of April 20, 2005. At the interview, agreement was reached to amend claim 14 to patentably distinguish the invention over the references relied upon in the Office Action of January 21, 2005. However, the Examiner indicated that the amendments made would require further search and therefore would be denied entry if submitted in an Amendment After Final Rejection. Accordingly, the agreed upon amendments have been made by way of Preliminary Amendment along with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN, PLLC

By: 
Jonathan L. Scherer
Reg. No. 29,851

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666

Date: April 21, 2005
JLS/dmt